Message Text

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SUBJECT: UNCTAD GROUP OF EXPERTS ROLE OF INDUSTRIAL PROPERTY SYSTEM IN TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY - AUGUST 1-9

1. MISSION OFFICER DISCUSSED SUBJECT MEETING WITH UNCTAD SECRETARIAT (PEDRO ROFFE-ROSENFELD AND GABRIEL WILNER). SECRETARIAT IS PREPARING TWO DOCUMENTS FOR MEETING, ONE IS ON DEVELOPMENTS RELATING TO THE REVISION OF THE PARIS CONVENTION. THIS PAPER IS AN ENLARGEMENT OF THE PAPER PREPARED FOR THE SEPTEMBER, 1975 MEETING OF EXPERTS ON THE ROLE OF THE PATENT SYSTEM IN THE TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY AND TAKES INTO ACCOUNT NEW DEVELOPMENTS SINCE THAT MEETING AND SHARPENS THE ARGUMENTS IN THE EARLIER PAPER. THE PAPER WILL ALSO SUPPORT ADOPTION OF THE DECLARATION OF OBJECTIVES OF PARIS REVISION FROM DECEMBER 1975, WIPO PARIS REVISION MEETING.

2. THE SECOND PAPER IS ON THE IMPACT OF TRADEMARKS IN THE DEVELOPMENT PROCESS OF LDCS. THIS 100 PAGE PAPER FOCUSES LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ON THE ROLE OF TRADEMARKS IN THE TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY. THE SECRETARIAT STRESSES THAT IT IS AN ECONOMIC RATHER THAN LEGAL PAPER WHICH DOES NOT MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS, BUT LAYS OUT ALTERNATIVE. THE PAPER TRIES TO ANSWER THE QUESTION WHAT SHOULD LDCS BE DOING WITH MARKS TO PROMOTE EXPORTS. WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE TRADEMARKS STUDY WAS PREPARED BY SOME CONSULTANTS, MOSTLY ECONOMISTS, INCLUDING

A PROFESSOR GREER FROM THE ECONOMICS DEPARTMENT OF THE UNIVERSITY OF SAN DIEGO.

- 3. BOTH PAPERS ARE NOW BEING REVIEWED BY THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF UNCTAD AND WE HAVE BEEN PROMISED ADVANCE COPIES AS SOON AS HE HAS CLEARED THEM, HOPEFULLY THIS WEEK. AS REGARDS ORIGINS OF STUDY ON MARKS, THE SECRETARIAT NOTES THAT THE COMMITTEE ON TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY AT ITS NOVEMBER 1975 MEETING IN RESOLUTION 3(I) PARA 6 CALLED FOR A STUDY ON MARKS IN COORDINATION WITH WIPO. SECRETARIAT SAID THEY HAD AN EXCHANGE OF VIEWS WITH WIPO, BUT NOTHING FURTHER. THIS MAY BE ONE POINT WE MAY WANT TO FAULT SECRETARIAT ON WHEN WE GET TO THE MEETING.
- 4. THE SECRETARIAT EXPECTS THAT THE FOCUS OF THE MEETING WILL BE ON TRADEMARKS RATHER THAN ON PATENTS. THEY ARE NOT SURE EXACTLY WHAT THE OUTCOME OF THE DISCUSSION ON MARKS WILL BE, BUT EXPECT MEETING TO RECOMMEND FURTHER EXPERT GROUP MEETINGS AND FURTHER STUDY OF THE MATTER.
- 3. SECRETARIAT WANTED TO LIMIT NUMBER OF EXPERTS PARTICIPATING IN THE MEETING AND SENT A LETTER TO THAT EFFECT TO GENEVA MISSIONS. HOWEVER, THEY HAVE NOW DECIDED TO GO AHEAD WITH A GENERAL INVITATION. AT JUNE 13 MEETING, FIFTEEN GROUP B COUNTRIES INDICATED THAT THEY WOULD LIKE TO PARTICIPATE IN MEETING; GROUP B COORDINAATOR WILL SO INFORM SECRETARIAT AND MAKE CLEAR THAT THIS DOES NOT MEAN THAT OTHER GROUP B COUNTRIES CANNOT PARTICIPATE IF THEY DECIDE LATER. SORENSON LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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